

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SAM-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 PC-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 /108 W

----- 123297

R 211035Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3581

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT AO

SUBJECT: CABINDA

1. A RELIABLE PORTUGUESE MILITARY SOURCE HAS TOLD US HE PERSONALLY EXPECTS A FLEC/ZAIRE/CONGO MOVE ON CABINDA BEFORE AN OAU MEETING HE SAYS IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY. HE TERMED AN ATTACK "POSSIBLE ANY-DAY AND VERY PROBABLE SOMETIME BEFORE THE MEETING."

2. THE HEAD OF GULF HERE SAYS HE HAS BEEN TOLD A FLEC INCURSION WAS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 12 BUT CANCELLED SHORTLY BEFORE THAT DATE BY EITHER OF FLEC'S SEMI-RIVAL LEADERS, TCHIOUFU OR RANQUE FRANQUE. (THE FORMER HEADS THE BRAZZAVILLE FLEC FACTION, THE LATTER THE ZAIRES FACCTION.) COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM CABINDA WERE DISRUPTED MAY 9 AND 10. GULF ALSO IS HEARING STORIES OF MPLA SAMs DEPLOYED ON THE BLUFFS OVERLOOKING CABINDA CITY. GULF EMPLOYEES WHO WORK WITH CABINDANS SAY THEY ARE NOW PREDICTING AN INVASION IN DECEMBER.

3. SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT HEARING A WILD STORY THAT GEN SPINOLA HAS SECRETLY MOVED FROM BRAZIL TO ZAIRES WHERE HE IS PARTICIPATING

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IN FLEC'S MILITARY PREPARATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE SPINOLA STORY IS

CONSIDERED BY ALMOST EVERYONE AS JUST ANOTHER RUMOR, TWO LOCAL JOURNALISTS HAVE BECOME INTRIGUED BY THE RELUCTANCE OF THE OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE ARMY SPOKESMAN TO CATEGORICALLY DENY IT.

4. IN SPITE OF THE RECENT BUILD UP OF FNLA IN CABINDA, MPLA IS NOW RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE ROADBLOCKS AND CHECKPOINTS AS FAR SOUTH AS THE CROSSROADS THREE MILES FROM IEMA ON THE ZAIRE BORDER. FOR THEIR PART, FNLA TROOPS ARE SEARCHING INCOMING AIRLINE BAGGAGE AT CABINDA'S AIRPORT. PORTUGUESE TROOPS IN CABINDA ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEGUN TO LEAVE THEIR WEAPONS IN THE BARRACKS EVEN WHEN PATROLLING.

5. COMMENT: WE STILL DISCOUNT AN IMMINENT MOVE ON CABINDA, PARTIALLY BECAUSE IN THE PAST (INCLUDING ONE TIME PRIOR TO LAST YEAR'S COUP IN LISBON) THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HAS REACTED TO SLIGHT FEARS OF A ZAIRE INVASION BY A CALCULATED OVERDRAMATIZATION OF THE DANGER TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN.

6. A CONGEN OFFICER IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT CABINDA MAY 22-24.
PORTER

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NNN

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